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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re application of

Docket No: Q67878

Takeya SAKAI, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/026,432

Group Art Unit: 1712

Confirmation No.: 1557

Examiner: Jeffrey Robertson

Filed: December 27, 2001

For: RETARDATION FILM AND PROCESS FOR PRODUCING THE SAME

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

MAIL STOP NON-FEE AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed May 1, 2003, in which the Examiner set a shortened statutory period for response by one month, making a reply due on or before June 2, 2003 (June 1, 2003, being a Sunday).

In the Action, the Examiner has required election under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to one of the following species:

- A) irradiating a mixture of a photosensitive polymer and a low molecular weight compound with light, wherein the ratio z of solubility parameters calculated from the evaporation energy and the molecular volume is larger than 0.93 and smaller than 1.06, claims 1-8;
- B) irradiating a film formed of a photosensitive polymer or a mixture of a photosensitive polymer and a low molecular weight compound with light with the incident light changing in sequence, claims 9-16;

Response to Election of Species Requirement
Serial No. 10/026,432
Our Ref: Q67878

C) irradiating a layer formed of a photosensitive polymer or a mixture of a photosensitive polymer and a low molecular weight compound with linear polarized lights having electric field oscillation planes differing from each other in at least two directions, wherein the light to be irradiated in at least one direction is irradiated in a direction oblique to the normal line of the layer, claims 17-28;

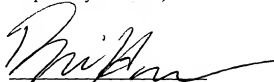
D) irradiating a layer formed of a photosensitive polymer containing a positive index ellipsoid structure or a mixture of a photosensitive polymer and a low molecular weight compound with non-polarized light or light including a perfectly polarized light component and a non-polarized light component claims 29-39.

The Examiner believes that there are no generic claims.

Applicant hereby elects Species A, drawn to claims 1-8, without traverse. Applicants reserve the right to file divisional applications on the non-elected claims.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe that a complete examination on the merits is now in order. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Date: June 2, 2003